

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

722 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

October 31, 1973

*"Ice Worthy
Research Ships"*

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of September 27, which I have discussed with Lee Talbot. The general meeting of Area V (Nature and Preserves) chaired by Buff Bohlen and Dr. Krinitzky has just concluded, with what seem to be good results, and we all look forward to a very satisfactory meeting of your Marine Mammal group in December. Bob Miller has probably already told you that Dr. Zensky has now confirmed plans for this meeting, and Bob is working on the program in detail. In the meanwhile I am working hard to get ready for our Joint Committee meeting November 13-16.

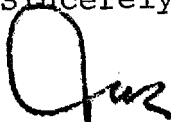
Your idea about discussing ice-worthy research ships with the Soviets is intriguing. Lee and I both feel it is an excellent idea that needs following up. If it were appropriate to do this under the Environmental Agreement, we could raise it in a preliminary fashion with the Soviets at our November meeting, with you to pursue the matter more concretely in December. To be frank, however, I am not sure the Environmental Agreement is the proper place for this study -- although it is unconventional enough that a "proper" place may not be easy to find. Two other possibilities come immediately to mind. First, under the new Oceanographic Agreement which NOAA is handling, such a study might be a natural. If not, there could conceivably be a place for it in the Science and Technology Agreement -- either of these representing a "scientific approach." If one took an engineering approach, however, looking on ship-building as a transportation problem first of all, then the study might even come under the new Transportation Agreement. In other words, finding the right pigeon-hole is a matter that needs some consideration. We are ready to help, but we want to be sure that someone else is not in a position to help better.

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I am glad you have written to Jack Tech about this matter. I shall take the liberty of copying your letter and this reply to a number of people working in Soviet exchanges, to get their views.

Regardless of the ship-design project, I certainly hope that you will continue to work in a variety of ways within the Environmental Agreement, and am delighted to hear that you are interested enough in it to add Russian to your arsenal. We look forward to seeing you in December, and hope that before long you will be testing your Russian on the streets of Moscow -- or perhaps in the frozen northland.

Sincerely,



Jack Perry

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